

International travel with pets

changes in the pet travel scheme in the EU

Which animals are affected?

The new rules are regulating the non-commercial movement of companion animals. There are separate rules regarding

- a) dogs, cats and ferrets
 - b) other animals (i. e. birds, rabbits, rodents, amphibians, reptiles and other species).
- This handout discusses information regarding travelling with dogs, cats or ferrets and not the other species mentioned above. Please consult us if you'd like to travel with pets of other species.

What is necessary to travel with dogs, cats and ferrets?

Your pet needs

- a) to be microchipped
- b) to be vaccinated against rabies after the microchip implantation
- c) to have a pet passport

There are some additional requirements in certain countries – see below

How many animals are allowed to travel as companion animals?

The maximum number of companion animals in one transport is five. More than this is considered commercial movement and should be authorized by the veterinary authorities.

Can young unvaccinated (under 3 months of age) dogs, cats and ferrets travel?

In general dogs, cats and ferrets should be at least 12 weeks old at the time of the first rabies vaccination and 3 weeks has to pass after the first vaccination to travel legally. Some countries allow travelling under this age if the animal is travelling with its mother or if the owner declares that it has not been in contact with wild animals susceptible of rabies.

Which European countries allow travelling with young, unvaccinated dogs, cats and ferrets?

Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Romania, Switzerland and Slovenia allows travelling with young, unvaccinated dogs.

The Netherlands and Latvia requires a certificate that these animals had not contacted with wild animals susceptible of rabies.

Portugal and Luxemburg only allows the entry of these animals if they are accompanied by their mother vaccinated against rabies.

Belgium, Cyprus, the UK, Finland, France, Ireland, Poland, Malta, Norway, Italy, Spain

and Sweden do NOT allow the entry of these animals.

These pieces of information represent conditions in December 2014 regarding Hungary and the countries mentioned above and may be a subject of change. Please contact us for further information.

Which countries impose additional requirements and what are those requirements?

Certain countries may require tapeworm treatment (treatment against echinococcosis), others may require tick treatment. These should be applied and validated by a qualified veterinarian. The timing is usually at least 24 hours before travelling and usually maximum 120 hours. Please contact us for further details or read the information on the following homepages:

Ireland - <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets/>

UK - <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad>

Finland - <http://www.evira.fi/portal/en/>

Sweden

<http://www.jordbruksverket.se/swedishboardofagriculture/engelskasidor/animals/import/dogscatsandferrets.4.295b2341134f64e5d6280001001.html>

Norway

http://www.mattilsynet.no/language/english/animals/travelling_with_pets/new_rules_for_travelling_with_your_dog_cat_or_ferret.9322

Malta - <http://vafd.gov.mt/pet-travel-scheme?l=1>

I plan my journey with a transit. Do I have to fulfill the requirements of the transit state?

It is not necessary to fulfill the requirements regarding the transit state if your pet doesn't leave the airport and you sign a declaration that your pet has been kept in confinement during the transit and has not contacted with animals susceptible to rabies. The declaration has an official form.

What if I would like to travel through a non-EU country and the re-enter the EU (i. e. from Hungary through Serbia to Bulgaria or Greece)?

In most cases a rabies titration test is necessary to enter or re-enter the EU from a third country. The titration test should be done at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination and the entry to the EU is only possible 3 months after the titration test. Please ask us for further details.

Do the new pet passport have a start of validity or expiration?

The new pet passport's validity starts 3 weeks after the first rabies vaccination. This date has to be written in the passport's designated part. The passport expires if one of its parts is full.

I have an old passport. Should I change it to a new one?

It is not necessary to change the old pet passport, only in the case on of its parts are full.

I am late with the rabies vaccination. Is there a travelling restriction?

There is a travelling restriction of 3 weeks following the next rabies vaccination.

I'd like to travel to a country which is not a member of the EU/doesn't accept the European pet passport. What should I do?

Certain non-EU states accepted the EU legislation and therefore you'll be able to travel with your pet passport. The most important ones are Switzerland, Norway, Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein, Vatican City, Iceland.

Other countries fall under a different regulation and you may need to have an export certificate.

More importantly if you plan to come back from these countries than a rabies titration test may be necessary for the reentry. The rabies titration test should be done at least 30 days after the first rabies vaccination and at least 3 months before the planned reentry. Please call us for further details.

Can airlines impose additional requirements?

Airlines can impose additional requirements which may be different at each company. Always ask your airline about their requirements before travelling and if necessary inform us as well in order to do the necessary paperwork.

What if I cannot be with my pet during travelling and other people will carry him/her?

In this case there is a form to be filled and – unlike until now – it is obligatory.

Should you have any questions please contact us on one of our availabilities:

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